
DAILY DEVOTIONAL

I Have Questions / Will following Jesus make me unhappy?

WEEK 1

FOLLOWING JESUS CAN MAKE YOUR LIFE BETTER.

The
**REWARD FOR
TRUSTING HIM**
will be the salvation
of your souls.

1 PETER 1:9

DAY 1

LIVE // With many things in life, we often have to weigh the cost versus the reward. Take studying, for example. When you take the time to study, it can cost you a lot of things: hanging out with friends, going to a movie, playing Fortnite, or spending time on your phone. But, there is often a reward, too: you do well on your test, please your parents, and get a good grade in the class. Although following Jesus at times means you'll have say "no" to things you would want to say "yes" to, Peter tells us our eternal reward—salvation—far outweighs any momentary cost. This week, start a note in your phone to keep track of rewards and benefits that come from saying "yes" to Jesus.



We also pray
that you will be
STRENGTHENED with
all his glorious power
so you will have
all the **ENDURANCE
AND PATIENCE**
you need.

COLOSSIANS 1:11a

DAY 2

PRAY // Have you ever had to run a long distance in gym class or on a sports team? While you probably start off strong, after a while your legs usually get tired. And it's at that point you have a choice: Do you push through the tiredness, or do you quit and seek temporary relief? Those who keep running are often rewarded with a sense of accomplishment that makes it all worth it. In a similar way, Paul knows we will be tempted to bail on following Jesus when the going gets tough. But he reminds us in today's verse that, through Jesus, we have everything we need to keep following. Pray today and ask God to strengthen you with His power and fill you with joy as you choose to follow Him.



I pray that God, the source of hope, will **fill you completely** with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will **overflow with confident hope** through the power of the Holy Spirit.

ROMANS 15:13

DAY 3

HEAR // Imagine filling up a cup of water, but not turning off the faucet. Pretty soon, that cup fills to the brim and then spills over to whatever is around it. In the same way, in today's verse Paul reminds us that following Jesus is not as much an emptying OUT as it is a pouring IN. In other words, as you follow Him, He will fill you with the hope you need to keep going. Write this verse on a notecard and carry it around in your pocket today. Then, in the moments following Jesus feels like a drain, pull it out and read it. As you follow Jesus, God wants to fill you with hope and joy—and He wants that hope and joy to overflow to those around you!



“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

JEREMIAH 29:11

DAY 4

LIVE // When was the last time you took a risk and tried something new without knowing how it was going to turn out? Maybe it was when you asked that girl to prom or when you auditioned for a play. Following Jesus can feel a little bit like that sometimes—as we follow Him, we don't always know what the outcome will be. However, UNLIKE taking a risk on ourselves, God promises that no matter what, He has our life and our future in His hands—and that future is a good one. How will you live your life this week knowing you can trust God's plans for you?



So you have sorrow now, but I will see you rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.

JOHN 16:22

DAY 5

TALK // It's easy to go after things in this world that give you immediate satisfaction. For instance, it's easy to lie to your parents to get what you want, look at something you know you shouldn't, or put off responsibilities until later. But when we choose a relationship with Jesus, it often means making the harder choice in those moments—it means doing what we know is right. While that can cause us unhappiness in the moment, it's not unhappiness forever. In fact, in this verse Jesus promises us immense joy that can NEVER be taken away if we follow Him! This week, ask your Small Group Leader if they've ever made a tough decision in a moment that actually led to more joy in the long run.

